

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE**U.S. arts figures promote
Cuba cultural exchange**

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'Jail killer cops!' say rallies in Illinois

BY LAURA ANDERSON

ROCKFORD, Illinois—More than 700 people rallied here October 3 in the latest protest against the police killing of Mark Barmore.

The 23-year-old African American was gunned down August 24 by two Rockford police officers in the basement of Kingdom Authority Ministries church that also housed a day-care center. Barmore was unarmed. The rally was held in the church.

Witnesses say the young man had his hands up when he was shot several times in front of preschool children. The police report claims Barmore was shot after he reached for an officer's gun. The coroner, on the other hand, confirmed that he was shot three times in the back and twice in the neck.

This was the third protest in Rockford against the killing. Some 200 people had marched through the downtown area August 28 chanting, "Blood on their badges" and "His hands were up." On September 12 some 1,300 marched, holding signs demanding justice for Barmore and demanding jobs and health care. Jesse Jackson and NAACP president Ben Jealous addressed that rally.

In addition to people from Rockford, NAACP chapters brought participants

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Pakistan army plans assault in tribal areas

BY DOUG NELSON

The Pakistani army is preparing another bloody assault to rein in Taliban forces at war with the government, this time in a section of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), the country's most underdeveloped region.

Islamabad's last major offensive, which centered in the Swat valley earlier this year, resulted in high civilian casualties, more than 2 million people displaced, and widespread disease and starvation.

Top U.S. officials have praised the planned offensive, which they have been pressing for since a central Taliban leader in Pakistan was killed by a U.S. aerial drone in August. At the same time, recent events reveal strained relations between the Pakistani government and Washington over differing approaches to the conduct of the war and what many in Pakistan see as an increasingly arrogant disregard for the country's sovereignty.

The Pakistani army has amassed two divisions, up to 28,000 soldiers, surrounding Mehsud tribal territory in South Waziristan. "The operation is imminent," Interior Minister Rehman Malik told Reuters October 11.

The offensive is directed at the Tal-

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U.S. rulers debate Afghan war strategy



Reuters/Nikola Solic

U.S. soldiers on patrol in Logar Province in eastern Afghanistan, October 4.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Differences on how to best defend U.S. imperialist interests in Afghanistan and Pakistan have emerged as the White House holds a series of high-level meetings to review U.S. strategy for its increasingly unpopular war in

the region. There are Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, on both sides of the debate.

After turning in a report that described the situation in Afghanistan as serious and "deteriorating," Gen.

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Reduced sentence for Cuban 5 defendant Antonio Guerrero

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS
AND ERNEST MAILHOT

MIAMI, October 13—Antonio Guerrero, one of five internationally known Cuban revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned by the U. S. government, left a Southern District of Florida federal courtroom today with a reduced sentence of 21 years and 10 months. With time off for his record of exemplary conduct, acknowledged in the ruling by U.S. District Judge Joan Le-

nard, Guerrero now has the possibility of parole in some 7 years. When Guerrero walked into the courtroom earlier in the day, he was serving a sentence of life imprisonment plus 10 years with no possibility of parole, handed down by the same judge in December 2001.

Guerrero and the other four Cuban revolutionaries have been unjustly held in U.S. prisons for more than 11 years on a variety of trumped-up

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PUBLIC MEETING — NEW YORK CITY

What Does the Dictatorship of Capital Have in Store for Working People?

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'Militant' supplement on new book aids subscription effort

BY TOM BAUMANN
AND NORTON SANDLER

As we pass the halfway point of the fall subscription drive, distributors of the paper are taking advantage of the *Militant*'s eight-page special supplement on the forthcoming Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* to boost readership of the paper. Our distributors are also reporting good results selling subscriptions on the job to coworkers.

The supplement, which includes the introduction to the book by Jack Barnes, the Socialist Workers Party

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Puerto Rican political prisoner fights for release

BY SETH GALINSKY

Supporters of Puerto Rican political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres are stepping up their efforts to win his release. They say the fight is at a crucial stage. Torres and fellow independence fighter Oscar López Rivera are among the longest held political prisoners in the world, having served 29 and 28 years respectively.

Torres was interviewed May 26 via a videoconference hearing by U.S. Parole Commission examiner Larry



Carlos Alberto Torres with granddaughter Noemi Alexandra. He is one of longest-held political prisoners in world.

Glenn. Following the hearing, Glenn recommended that Torres be paroled on April 3, 2010.

However, in June prison authorities in Pekin, Illinois, where Torres is being held, reinstated charges of possessing knives against Torres and his cellmates. The knives were allegedly

found in January, hidden in the light fixture of the cell shared by 10 prisoners.

On July 28 the full parole board said they would postpone their final decision for at least 90 days pending resolution of the charges.

Two days later prison officials found Torres and his cellmates guilty, even though another prisoner gave sworn testimony that the knives were his and that neither Torres nor the other cellmates knew about them. Torres received a sentence of 60 days' loss of telephone use, visits, and commissary privileges, and lost 41 days of good time credits.

The actions are "a transparent attempt to derail his release after 29 years in prison," Torres's lawyer Jan Susler wrote in a letter to his supporters, "and to isolate and further punish him." If the parole commission does not approve Torres's release, he will not be granted another hearing for 15 years.

Torres was arrested in April 1980 along with 10 other supporters of Puerto Rico's independence. The U.S. government accused them of being "terrorists" and members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) of Puerto Rico. They were also accused of "seditious conspiracy" and armed robbery among other charges.

López Rivera was arrested in May 1981 and found guilty of similar charges in a separate trial in July that year.

Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony
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THE MILITANT

Jail killer cops!

Thousands have demonstrated in Rockford, Illinois, in recent weeks against the police shooting of an unarmed Black man. Keep up with this and other fights against police brutality in the pages of the 'Militant.'



Sue Stephens
September 12 march against cop killing in Rockford, Illinois.

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New York picket demands: Free the Cuban 5!



Militant/Ben Joyce

NEW YORK—More than 45 people gathered at the Federal Building here October 13 to demand the release of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States for more than 11 years on frame-up charges.

The prisoners—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, René González, and Antonio Guerrero—are known as the Cuban Five. They were monitoring rightist groups that operate from the United States to carry out violent activity aimed at overthrowing the Cuban Revolution. During their mission the five were arrested by the FBI and later convicted on conspiracy charges. Gross violations of their democratic rights characterized the trial.

The picket was organized by the Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5.

—BEN JOYCE

Gay couples discriminated against in health insurance and benefits

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Gay couples receive fewer social benefits and pay more for health insurance than heterosexual married couples. An October 3 *New York Times* "Your Money" column titled "The High Price of Being a Gay Couple" presented facts about this discriminatory treatment in monetary terms.

The article examined how a middle-class gay couple with a combined yearly income of \$140,000 and two children would be affected. It stated that such couples would be forced to pay an additional \$41,000 to \$468,000 more over a lifetime.

This discrimination has its biggest impact on working-class gay couples for whom health insurance consumes a much larger proportion of their annual income, which is a lot less than \$140,000.

Most major employers deny health insurance coverage for same-sex partners. The gay couple used as a reference in the article would pay between \$29,000 to \$212,000 more for health-care coverage over their lifetime compared to their heterosexual married counterparts. Those purchasing additional policies with lower premiums are often forced to spend thousands of dollars more in annual out-of-pocket deductible expenses.

Heterosexual spouses can receive additional Social Security payments if their partner's benefits are higher than their own. Same-sex couples are denied this benefit. Employers do not have to provide survivor pension benefits to a same-sex spouse.

Laws banning gay marriage keep these discriminatory policies intact.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Tire workers in France fight frame-up by bosses

BY CLAUDE BLETON

CLOAIROIX, France—Some 1,500 workers and their families rallied here September 26 outside the Continental tire factory to demand legal charges be dropped against six unionists at the plant. They were joined by other auto workers from northern France and the Paris region.

Backed by the three trade unions that represent them, the CGT, FO, and the CFDT, the 1,120 workers at the Continental factory waged a major battle in March against the company's plan to fire them after it announced the plant would be closed. The workers held daily rallies and general assemblies to decide on outreach actions.

Several hundred occupied another Continental factory in the east of France in order to force corporate management, based in Hanover, Germany, to meet with them. In April they demonstrated together with Continental workers from Hanover, whose plant was also being shut down. A popular chant was "Zusammen," or "together" in German.

Workers at the plant here in Clairoix were particularly angered because in 2007 they had agreed, under intense pressure from the bosses, to concede increasing the workweek to 40 hours from 35 hours.

In late May Continental finally announced substantial concessions to the laid-off workers in Clairoix, guaranteeing payment of at least 75 percent of their salaries until 2014, and then a minimum payout of 50,000 euros (1 euro=US\$1.45).

After Continental bosses again refused to meet last April, workers demonstrated at the local sub-prefecture, to

which substantial damage was done. On September 1 a court gave suspended sentences of several months to six Continental workers for the damage, with fines to be assessed of tens of thousands of euros, saying the workers were collectively responsible.

Among the many messages of support read at the September 26 rally was one from Elie Domota, a central leader of the general strike in the French colony of Guadeloupe early this year. It received strong applause. "The Alliance against Exploitation unreservedly condemns all attempts by the French state, on behalf of big business, to demonize union activities and make them into criminal activities," Domota wrote. "Ansam nou ké gannyé" (Together we can win) the message ended in Creole.



Militant/Claude Bleton

September 26 rally of 1,500 in Clairoix, France, to demand charges be dropped against Continental tire workers who have protested mass firings. Banner reads, "Bosses, thugs protected; workers punished? Stop the prosecution of our 6 comrades!"

Jailed Puerto Rican activist fights for release

Continued from page 2

since 1898, when U.S. troops wrested control of the island from Spain. Residents of Puerto Rico are subject to U.S. laws, courts, and military service. They are U.S. citizens, but have no vote in presidential elections. The representative from Puerto Rico in the U.S. Congress has no voting rights.

In 1999 then-president William Clinton offered to pardon or commute the sentences of 16 Puerto Rican political prisoners. Two of them—Antonio Camacho Negrón and Oscar López—refused because they did not want to accept onerous conditions on their freedom. Two others had already been released and did not respond. Torres was never offered a pardon.

"I spoke with Carlos Alberto on

Saturday [October 3] the day after the phone restrictions were lifted," Alejandro Molina, co-coordinator of the National Boricua Human Rights Network, told the *Militant*. "Two or three of his cellmates had the weapons charge reversed on appeal and he is hopeful in this case."

"We think this is a delaying tactic that could disrupt the parole process," Molina said. "Carlos Alberto has had a stellar record of conduct in prison" until this accusation.

Over the last decade "almost every church denomination in Puerto Rico, representatives of the main political parties there, and dozens of other organizations and prominent individuals around the world have called for the release of Torres and the other political

prisoners," Molina added.

In a letter in 2007, Anglican archbishop Desmond Tutu from South Africa noted the similarity between the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela during the apartheid regime and that of the Puerto Rican *independentistas*.

Letters protesting the weapons charge against Torres can be sent to: Warden, FCI Pekin, P.O. Box 7000, Pekin, IL 61555 and Harley G. Lappin, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20534.

Letters to the two political prisoners can be sent to:

Carlos Alberto Torres, #88976-024, FCI Pekin, P.O. Box 5000, Pekin, IL 61555 and Oscar López Rivera, #87651-024, FCI Terre Haute, P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

Minnesota event boosts party-building fund

BY LAURA GARZA

"We raised \$820 in new contributions and collected a total of \$1,540 including existing pledges," writes Natalie Morrison, the director of the party-building fund for the Socialist Workers Party in Twin Cities, Minnesota.

Twenty people attended the October 10 meeting in that city. The featured speaker was Maggie Trowe, a leader of the SWP in Iowa. Trowe had joined dozens of others in defending the Nebraska clinic of Dr. LeRoy Carhart against antiabortion protests in August.

She pointed to the twin attacks on undocumented workers and women's rights in President Barack Obama's health-care proposal to Congress. It would deny coverage to undocumented and other immigrant workers, and prohibit any federal funding for abortion.

Trowe said that the rulers have made clear what their recovery will look like to workers and have given the green light to rightists and others to intensify their assaults. She noted that the Obama administration's new face of immigration reform is marked by increased arrests, deportations, and firings through no-match letters, and bringing felony charges of forgery and identity theft against workers without papers.

The right of women to choose abortion "goes to the heart of the condi-

tions necessary for women to participate fully in the workplace and society," stated Trowe. "There can be no compromise on the right to abortion. The right to abortion is an unconditional, fundamental prerequisite of women's liberation."

As the third week of the eight-week fund ended, a stepped-up effort is needed to get the pledges to equal the \$95,000 goal. There is a \$3,300 gap between the total of the local quotas pledged and the national goal. The fund helps continue the work of building a revolutionary party in the United States, one that aims to help lead the working class to take power out of the hands of the rulers and to use it to organize society in the interest of the world's toilers.

In Boston fund supporters came together for an evening of calling to line up further pledges and invite people to an October 18 fund meeting. The meeting will feature Ma'mud Shirvani speaking on the fight for democratic rights in Iran today, and the need to oppose Washington's attacks on that country. The calls were also to invite people to join in a march and rally against the wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq on October 17 at Copley Square in Boston.

In Los Angeles fund supporters will hold a discussion of the introduction to a soon-to-be-published book titled *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and*

the Road to Workers Power, reports James Harris. This should provide a chance to collect more on pledges already made, get some raises of the pledges, and win some new contributions to the fund, he said.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Checks and money orders should be written out to the Socialist Workers Party.

Natalie Morrison contributed to this article.

Party-building fund Fall 2009 • Week 3 of 8

City	Quota	Paid	%
Newark, NJ	\$3,000	\$1,617	54%
San Francisco	\$13,000	\$5,936	46%
Houston	\$2,700	\$1,068	40%
Boston	\$2,800	\$1,033	37%
Los Angeles	\$9,200	\$3,362	37%
Miami	\$3,000	\$1,052	35%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$2,949	31%
Des Moines, IA	\$2,400	\$720	30%
New York	\$16,000	\$4,696	29%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,600	\$1,935	29%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$1,169	17%
Washington, D.C.	\$5,500	\$695	13%
Atlanta	\$7,500	\$680	9%
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$0	0%
Other		\$600	
TOTAL	\$91,700	\$27,512	29%
SHOULD BE	\$95,000	\$35,625	38%

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami

U.S. and World Capitalism: The Crisis Deepens, the Wars Spread. Meeting to benefit SWP party-building fund. Speaker: Ernest Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 24. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Program, 7:30 p.m. 719 NE 79th St. (one block east of Biscayne). Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

NEW YORK

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Unemployment and the Capitalist Crisis: How to Fight for Jobs for All. Fri., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. 307 W. 36th St. 10th floor. (Use north set of elevators.) Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

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Sponsored by SWP, San Francisco

UK: hundreds mobilize against right-wing thugs

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

MANCHESTER, England—Hundreds of students, trade unionists, and others demonstrated here October 10, in opposition to a rally of right-wing thugs organized by the English Defence League. The EDL action, outnumbered two-to-one by the counter-protest, was the largest the outfit has mounted to date.

The counterprotest was called by the umbrella organization Unite Against Fascism with the support of the North West region of the Trades Union Congress, a number of Labour Party members of Parliament, the Muslim Council of Britain, the Muslim Jewish Forum, and Anglican church leaders.

It overwhelmingly involved students and young workers from Manchester and the surrounding region. Union banners could be seen from the Manchester Trades Council, RMT rail union, and Unison health and public sector union. Demonstrators chanted, “Nazi scum off our streets” and “There are many more of us than of you.”

Previous actions organized by different right-wing outfits—among them EDL, Stop Islamisation of Europe, and the British National Party (BNP)—have been met with counterprotests in Birmingham, Luton, and the Lon-

don area. Asian youth, who have been prominent in these demonstrations, turned out in smaller numbers in Manchester. A leader of a Manchester mosque told the *Militant* that Islamic religious leaders had discouraged a militant mobilization.

Many who sought to participate were denied access to the Piccadilly Gardens, the main city center square and site of the protest, which was cordoned off by hundreds of police.

Richard McKeag, 19, a telesales worker, was among a group of some 30 youth, mainly Asian and Black, who managed to dodge the police cordon. McKeag told the *Militant* that he was in mobile phone contact with his brother, who was among large numbers barred entry by police in riot gear and on horseback. McKeag, who is of Irish descent, said that he joined the protest because he opposed the EDL’s targeting of Asians. “We work together and we’re just alike,” he said.

The EDL had planned a rally for 5:00 p.m. It was to include a speaker, two minutes of silence in honor of British troops who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the singing of the national anthem. They carried placards reading, “Is this England or Englistan,” “Stop using our taxes to fund militant Is-



Hundreds of students, unionists, and others (above) joined counterprotest October 10. They outmobilized rightist thugs (inset) at rally organized by English Defence League.

lam,” “Shariah law oppresses women,” and “Black and White, Unite.” They sported Union Jack flags and the cross of St. George. A banner called for free speech and democracy. Two carried an Israeli flag. A number donned ski mask headgear though few appeared to wear EDL’s black T-shirt uniform.

Cops push back counterprotesters

Unite Against Fascism called for a counterprotest from noon until 6:00 p.m. in the same location. Police facilitated EDL entry into the square, while pushing back the counterprotesters. They formed a cordon—involving cops in riot gear, on horseback, and

with dogs—separating the EDL from the larger counterdemonstration. At the end of EDL’s action the police patrolled them away in a march. People emerging from local pubs swelled their ranks. The cops arrested 48 people, including people from both the EDL rally and the counterprotest.

Manchester Council’s deputy leader, Labour councillor Jim Battle, praised the police operation calling it “outstanding.” Thomas Robinson, an EDL spokesperson, said it was “well managed.” Weyman Bennett, joint national secretary of Unite Against Fascism, said it was “well controlled” by the police, reported BBC. Unite Against Fascism and the City Council had tried unsuccessfully to have the demonstration outlawed.

The EDL and its partners, Scottish Defence League and Welsh Defence League, have announced plans to hold actions in other British towns. The BNP, which won two seats in the European parliament in the June 2009 elections, has disassociated itself from these groupings. EDL members post blogs about the “failure of the BNP.”

These ultrarightist gangs are vying for leadership of disaffected working class and middle-class elements whose ranks are growing as a result of the intensifying economic crisis and rising unemployment.

Pamela Holmes contributed to this article.

‘Militant’ supplement on new book aids drive

Continued from front page

national secretary, and a selection of photos that will appear in the book, helped convince many over the past week to become new subscribers to the *Militant*.

Drawing on a number of positive examples detailed below, we urge distributors to map out a plan for how they can use the special *Militant* sup-

plement and the paper’s ongoing coverage and analysis of major events in world politics and the stakes for working people to help meet their quotas and go over.

In New York distributors got a substantial boost toward meeting their quota. Using the supplement, they sold 32 subscriptions this past week, the majority in working-class areas of the city.

Four of the subscriptions were sold at Hunter College. On one day distributors sold 13 subscriptions, 90 single copies of the *Militant*, and 11 books, reported Doug Nelson.

Distributors in other parts of the country are reporting similar results. “We sold six subscriptions on the Southside of Chicago to Black workers interested in how the ideas of Malcolm X can be applied to today,” said Alyson Kennedy. Five others from Humboldt Park, a predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood, also subscribed. A retired Filipino worker, who had been active in his youth against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, bought a subscription and paid \$10 on the promotional offer for the new book.

Supporters of the *Militant* in London joined a countermobilization against an ultrarightist and anti-immigrant group called the English Defence League. They met nine people who got subscriptions, some of whom picked up Pathfinder titles on sale with a subscription or renewal.

At the Wordstock Book Fair in Portland, Oregon, October 10–11, participants were attracted to the display of Pathfinder

books. Twenty new readers signed up for the *Militant*. Four of those who subscribed prepaid for the new book. A total of \$300 in Pathfinder books was sold at the event.

In Washington, D.C., supporters of the *Militant* met many gay rights activists at a national demonstration. Eight participants subscribed and “were attracted to the pull-out feature,” Glover Scott reported.

Other areas met new subscribers attending political and cultural activities. Supporters of the *Militant* in San Francisco sold 5 subs and 15 single issues of the paper at an Arab Cultural Festival, wrote Carole Lesnick.

Minnesota meat packers subscribe to paper company doesn’t want them to read

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Since the opening of the fall subscription drive, the *Militant* newspaper has gotten a good response at the Dakota Premium meatpacking plant here. Twenty members of Local 789 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which represents workers in the slaughterhouse, have purchased subscriptions.

Several workers subscribed in the weeks after the company threatened to arrest supporters of the *Militant* newspaper who were distributing the paper this past August. For many years Dakota workers have picked up the paper at the plant gate. Distribution by the union of its material at the plant gate has also been an important part of building support for the union, including during the successful 2007–2008 struggle to beat back the company’s decertification effort.

By shutting down distribution of materials at the plant gate, the company was sending a clear message that they did not want Dakota workers to read the *Militant*. But this hasn’t stopped supporters from getting out the paper. The 20 workers who have picked up subscriptions during this campaign include more than half a dozen who resubscribed.

Recently, supporters of the paper organized a sale 100 feet from the plant gate and got a positive response—eight papers and a subscription were sold.

* * *

Militant supporters at the American Apparel garment shop in Los Angeles have sold nine subscriptions to coworkers in the current subscription drive. This company has recently fired 1,500 undocumented workers. The new subscribers include both fired workers and new hires.

New Zealand strikers challenge dairy bosses

BY JANET ROTH

WAHAROA, New Zealand—Dairy workers walked the picket line outside the Open Country Cheese plant here September 19 to defend their union and jobs against a belligerent employer.

Dairy Workers Union members at the factory had begun a strike three days earlier, set to last eight days. Workers on the picket line said that in retaliation, the company—owned by Talleys, a major New Zealand food company—said it would lock them out for six weeks once the strike ended.

Strikers told the *Militant* they oppose company plans to “restructure” that include laying off workers for months during each off-peak season, thereby ending their current year-round employment, and changing their rostered hours and shifts. “We want more job security,” said Richard Van Nistelrooy, emphasizing a central demand of the strike.

Around half of the 65 process workers are striking. Still working are permanent employees who did not join the union, temporary employees, and permanent workers the company brought in from other plants.

On the picket line workers told of the company’s aggressive stance. One manager is facing allegations of physically assaulting a worker. With five hours to go in their last shift before the strike, Tracey Van Nistelrooy said she and other union members were ordered to empty out their lockers and leave. “They don’t want a union in at all,” she said. “But we won’t be bullied or intimidated by them.”

Workers said Talleys has a long record as an antiunion employer. A woman at its fish plant won a sexual discrimination case against the firm in 2007 when boss Andrew Talley wouldn’t let her become a fish fillet. “Talley said fish filleting wasn’t a job for a woman, and that she should be a pole-dancer instead!” said Viv Hannah.

Open Country Cheese has since sacked a temporary worker who had joined the picket outside of his work hours, and Dave Te Iringi, one of the two union delegates, for an alleged in-

cident on the picket.

Workers hired as “temporaries” are employed by a separate agency set up by the company, and are not in the union. They are paid lower wages and laid off when work dries up. As part of the collective union contract they are fighting for, picketers said they want equal wages and permanent status for these workers within a definite period of their starting work.

On September 25 the Employment Court ruled the company lockout illegal. In response, the company suspended all the union members on full pay, claiming it had to investigate “sabotage” before allowing them back to work.



Militant/Baskaran Appu
Picket line at New Zealand Open Country Cheese plant September 19. Workers oppose company “restructuring” plan that means long layoffs and changes in hours and shifts.

Moroccan is freed in Canada ‘terrorist’ case

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—A major victory for democratic rights was won here September 23 when a Montreal judge set free Adil Charkaoui.

Born in Morocco and a permanent resident of Canada, Charkaoui had been charged by the Canadian government with being a terrorist. He spent two years in prison and since 2005 has been living under severe restrictions.

A machinist, Charkaoui was arrested in 2003 and accused of being a “sleeper” for al-Qaeda. He has repeatedly denied the charge. He was held under a “security certificate,” which allows the indefinite detention of noncitizens. Defendants under security certificates do not have the right to see all the “evidence” against them.

In March Montreal judge Danielle Tremblay-Lamer ordered the government to produce its wiretap evidence on Charkaoui. The government refused on the grounds that to do so would compromise its sources.

Johanne Doyan, Charkaoui’s lawyer, said the government’s evidence is based on declarations from detainees who were

tortured, reported the *Montreal Gazette*. The paper also reported that the government plans to appeal the judge’s order releasing Charkaoui and seek a new security certificate against him.

In her September 23 order the judge lifted the restrictions against Charkaoui’s movements and said the security certificate would be lifted in the coming days.

Outside his home Charkaoui cut off the electronic ankle bracelet he has been forced to wear, returning it to Border Services agents. At a press conference in Ottawa, he said, “I am asking for an apology. I don’t want to live with the label of presumed ex-terrorist.”

He also said he deserves compensation for “a very long list of abuses that you cannot imagine.” He missed the birth of his second child, lost his teaching license, and was harassed by security officials.

On September 21, a judge in Ottawa lifted some of the onerous living conditions imposed by the government on Mohamed Harkat, a former pizza delivery man. The judge stopped the 24-hour surveillance outside his home and he

will now be able to travel alone in the Ottawa area. He is still subject to a security certificate, however.

The government accused Harkat, an Algerian, of being an al-Qaeda agent. He was released from jail three years ago but has been living under severe restrictions ever since.

Three other men are also subject to security certificates. One of them, Mohammad Majoub, decided to return to jail because of the harsh conditions imposed on his family by the restrictions he was living under. The two other men are Mahmoud Jaballah and Hassan Almrei.

In a related development, Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen and machinist originally from Sudan, has just started a cross-Canada speaking tour. Also accused of ties to “terrorists,” he was forced with the complicity of the Canadian government into six years’ exile in Sudan. For more information on Abdelrazik’s tour go to PeoplesCommission.org.

Beverly Bernardo contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 26, 1984

In the next several weeks, U.S. working people will be deluged with a flood of lies about the Grenada revolution, its achievements, and its overthrow. The occasion for the storm of demagoguery is the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island on October 25.

U.S. employers and their government will take this opportunity to not only smear the Grenada revolution, but to try to win support for the U.S. war in Central America. Countering the employers’ lies about the Grenada revolution is an essential task for all its supporters and an important contribution to the fight against Washington’s escalating war in Central America.

“There’s a bipartisan drive to deepen the U.S. rulers’ war,” explained Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate. “Democratic presidential hopeful Walter Mondale has made clear his support to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada.



October 26, 1959

As President Eisenhower moved to force the steel strikers back to work, a group of supervisors turned up at the plant gate of U.S. Steel’s Fairless Works in Morrisville, Pa., to enter the mill as they have been doing since the strike began.

But this time a mass picket line turned them away. A union spokesman said the local had ended its policy of permitting supervisors to enter the plant because they had been violating an agreement to restrict themselves to maintenance work.

The incident reflects the mood of increased militancy being generated among the steel workers by the strike-breaking moves of the companies and the government.

Reports from the major steel centers show general recognition among union ranks that the days ahead are crucial in the defense of their organization. They are ready to strike again at the end of the 80-day injunction rather than accept a company plan to gut the union.



October 27, 1934

President Roosevelt in his latest address to the bankers was greeted by them with a thundering ovation.

After listening to his explanation of what the New Deal really means, they decided rapturously that they were all for him, and it.

President Roosevelt guarantees no Government interference with the swindling operations of the money-changers, against which he spoke so eloquently when he was first elected. He reminded them of all that he had done for “them” towards bolstering up their crumbling concerns, towards guaranteeing them payment on their bad loans, towards “restoring public confidence” in them at a time when their reputation was unsavory, to say the least. And he delicately hinted that he would do as much or more for them in the future.

The benefit of this juggling to the Government is an artificial relieving of the strain on the budget, caused not by relief expenditures, but by direct loans to industry.

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Australia rally defends right to choose abortion

BY LINDA HARRIS

BRISBANE, Australia—Supporters of abortion rights joined a picket line outside the central police station here October 2 to protest the decision to put Tegan Leach on trial for having an abortion, and to prosecute her partner, Sergio Brennan, for assisting her.

A Cairns court magistrate ruled September 11 that there was sufficient evidence to place the couple on trial for illegally terminating a pregnancy. If convicted, Leach faces a maximum seven years in jail and Brennan up to three years. The date of the trial has not yet been set.

Earlier this year Leach, 19, and Brennan, 21, decided to use the abortion drugs Misoprostol and RU486 at home. Police charged them under sections of the Queensland Criminal Code 1899, which cover “illegal” abortions. This is the first time in 50 years that criminal abortion charges have been brought against a woman in Queensland.

UK sanitation workers strike against wage cuts

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LEEDS, England—A strike by 600 refuse collectors and street cleaners here remains solid after five weeks. They are faced with wage cuts of up to £6,000 per year, a third of their wages.

“We’ve had enough of one-day strikes. You just clean it up the next day, so people don’t even notice,” Dave Parker told the *Militant* at the New York Road depot picket line October 8.

Workers say the pay cut would take many down to £12,000, just above minimum wage (£1= \$US1.58). The Leeds city council has cynically justified this on the basis of equal pay legislation, comparing those emptying bins, mostly men, with cleaners and workers in school cafeterias, mostly women.

“The proper way to introduce equal pay is to increase the wage of the women workers up to that of the men,” GMB union organizer Desiree Risebury said.

At the Cross Green site, Unison union shop steward Harry Ambler told the *Militant* that 100 strikers gathered

The week before the decision came down the Queensland Labor government passed minor amendments to the criminal code to extend legal protection for doctors to perform drug-induced pregnancy terminations. But the government has refused to consider decriminalizing abortion.

“Some people have confused this particular case” with “clarifying the law in relation to abortion for doctors,” Queensland deputy premier Paul Lucas told a news conference September 11. This is about someone who “may have taken an abortion pill... illegally without the permission of a doctor,” he said.

Placards, banners, and chants on the picket line made it clear that the protest was to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion. “This is an attempt to roll back abortion rights,” said Kathy Newnam from the Pro-Choice Action Collective, which organized the picket. “The timing of the charges is not a coincidence. Antiabortion forces



Militant/Joanne Kuniansky

Kathy Newnam of the Pro-Choice Action Collective speaking at October 2 picket in Brisbane demanding charges be dropped against a couple for obtaining an abortion.

are taking back ground, and the police have always been in the front line of attacks on abortion rights.”

In an open letter to Queensland premier Anna Bligh on behalf of Women’s Abortion Action Campaign in Sydney, Margaret Kirkby called for repeal of sections of the criminal code related to abortion and for the

charges to be dropped.

“The right of women to abortion in Queensland was established by precedent by the ruling of Justice McGuire in 1986,” the letter stated. “Charging this young couple is an attack on women’s rights and on women’s access to the simple medical procedure called abortion.” McGuire’s ruling established that abortion is legal, if in the opinion of a doctor the continued pregnancy would cause mental or physical harm to the woman.

Rather than threatening Leach and Brennan with imprisonment, “your government should be making both medical and surgical terminations of pregnancy safe, accessible, and affordable to all Queensland women,” the letter concluded.

A protest rally and march in support of abortion rights and to demand the charges against Leach and Brennan be dropped has been called for November 21 here in Brisbane.

er there for a demonstration early each morning. They have received solidarity from other unions and workers in the area, with a substantial part of donations to the strike fund coming from street collections. A local cafe has brought hot meals to the picket line.

The council has attempted to break the strike by employing contractors and having agency workers who usually sort recycling do refuse collection instead. “If we lose the strike, there will be job cuts and privatization

down the line,” Ambler said. “Other councils are looking at this, hoping they can do the same,” he said.

GMB general secretary Paul Kenny attended a mass meeting October 8 where workers voted overwhelmingly to remain on strike. Unison and GMB officials announced that £50,000 had been added to the strike fund. A benefit concert featuring musician Keith Allen is scheduled for October 18. Information on how to support the strike is on www.gmb.org.uk.

U.S. rulers debate Afghanistan war strategy

Continued from front page

Stanley McChrystal, Washington’s top general in Afghanistan, presented three options with varying amounts of troops to back up the military’s “counterinsurgency” strategy. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, one alternative includes sending more than 60,000 additional troops, although McChrystal reportedly favors sending 40,000.

The troop request follows a shift that has already begun in U.S. military strategy. This includes redeploying troops to more heavily populated areas, promoting some local development projects to undercut support for Taliban and other insurgent forces, and trying to split the insurgency. McChrystal has also ordered U.S. and NATO forces under his command to restrict the use of artillery and air strikes to avoid hitting civilians, a big source of resentment among Afghans.

Vice President Joseph Biden is said to oppose sending more troops and has put forward a competing “counterterrorism” strategy. Under Biden’s proposal Washington would maintain the soon to be 68,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Instead of sending more troops, he proposes stepping up drone attacks on al-Qaeda bases in Pakistan and along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, conducting more U.S. Special

Forces operations there, increasing U.S. aid to the Pakistan military, and downplaying going after Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

Conservative columnist George Will has put forward a similar view.

Chaos-istan

The debate sharpened after McChrystal gave a speech to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London October 1.

He argued against viewing Afghanistan as “Chaos-istan” and allowing it to become “a Somalia-like haven of chaos that we simply manage from outside.”

Just a few days after McChrystal’s speech, U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates said that advice to the White House should be presented “privately.” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made a similar point in an October 5 interview with PBS’s Charlie Rose. Pelosi says she opposes sending more U.S. troops.

An editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* highlights the tensions. Some members of the Congressional Democratic Caucus, the editorial said, call McChrystal “General MacArthur,” a reference to the U.S. general in charge of U.S. forces during the Korean war, who was fired by then-president Harry Truman.

Democratic senator Dianne Fein-

stein, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, has come down on McChrystal’s side, saying the U.S. mission in Afghanistan is in “serious jeopardy” and more troops are needed.

U.S. senator and former Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who favors sending 40,000 more troops, has called on Obama to move rapidly to a decision.

Beefing up Afghan army

Gen. David Petraeus, who heads up the U.S. Central Command and has backed McChrystal’s assessment of the war in Afghanistan, noted in an October 7 speech the disagreements in U.S. ruling circles on what course to take there. But, he said, all sides agreed on beefing up the Afghan army and police.

The 82,000-strong Afghan army and 134,000 Afghan cops participate in few battles against Taliban and other insurgents.

Washington’s hope to substantially increase the size of the Afghan forces and turn them into an effective fighting force, which it succeeded in doing to some extent with the Iraqi army, has been complicated by the recent presidential elections in Afghanistan.

Two months after the elections, marked by low turnout and charges of massive vote fraud, the results have still not been certified.

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U.S. arts figures promote Cuba cultural exchange

BY PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON—Viengsay Valdés danced with the Washington Ballet October 14.

The prima ballerina of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba is the first performing artist from that Caribbean island that the U.S. State Department has allowed to enter the country since 2003. She was a special guest at a roundtable discussion here September 27 on efforts to expand cultural exchanges between the two countries and work to end the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba.

"This event is part of a celebration of cultural exchange between the United States and Cuba," Jorge Bolaños, Cuba's top diplomat in the United States, told the audience of 75 participants in the discussion at Washington's Gala Hispanic Theatre.

"The U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange was initiated in 2005," Bolaños said, introducing the organization that helped put together the panel.

The Cuban Interests Section is hosting a month of cultural programs, including film showings, dance lessons, art exhibitions, and performances that end October 30. Because Cuba is de-

nied normal diplomatic relations with the United States, the interests section functions as a substitute for an embassy. Washington also has an interests section in Havana.

"Before 2004 there were over 300 U.S. colleges with licenses for student travel to Cuba, today there are 20. Some 3,000 students visited Cuba yearly, now only 300 do," Professor Philip Brenner of American University told the audience. Brenner said it is a lie that the reason for restricting academic travel to Cuba has to do with keeping U.S. currency out of Cuba.

"There are 2.3 million tourists that travel to Cuba each year. Ten thousand students do not affect that tourism income," Brenner said. "This is about knowledge. The students brought back information and enthusiasm about what is happening in Cuba."

Two of the panelists, actor and producer Danny Glover and Eduardo Diaz, executive director of the Smithsonian Latino Center, described the impact the Cuban Revolution made on their political lives as activists in the struggle for Black and Chicano rights.

Septime Webre, artistic director of



Militant/Chris Hoepner

Artists and cultural figures discuss fight to end restrictions on cultural exchange with Cuba at September 27 meeting at Gala Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C. From left: Septime Webre, Danny Glover, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, Hugo Medrano, Mavis Anderson, Curtis White, and Eduardo Diaz.

the Washington Ballet, brought the ballet company—an entourage of 150 people—to Cuba in 2000. It was the first U.S. ballet company to visit the island since 1960. Webre, who is Cuban American, said, "It didn't escape us that we were contributing to the body politic."

Hugo Medrano, artistic director of the Gala Hispanic Theatre, which produces performances in both Spanish and English, said the theater has reached out to Cuba since its founding in 1976. In 1998 the theater brought the original cast of the award-winning Cuban film *Straw-*

berries and Chocolate to present the stage play version.

"I look forward to the day when our kids can spend six months studying in Cuba," said Peggy Cooper Cafritz, co-founder of the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, a Washington, D.C., arts high school.

The panel was moderated by James Early, director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institution. Other speakers included Curtis White, president of Allied Communications, a company working to establish telecommunications links with Cuba; and Mavis Anderson of the Latin America Working Group, which lobbies to pass legislation easing travel restrictions. In her remarks, Anderson noted that the president does not have the authority to end the travel ban.

"The Obama administration just this week denied Carlos Alzugaray, a Cuban professor who has lectured many times in the United States, a visa," Professor Brenner noted after Anderson spoke. "President Obama can change that. He has the power to grant or deny visas."

"We encouraged our students to come to the program so they could better understand Cuba," said Professor Tamera Izzar, who brought a half dozen theater students to hear the panelists. She is from the theater department of Howard University.

"We came to get a better feel for Cuba," Howard student Tyree Young told the *Militant*. "I'm glad we did."

U.S. commander in chief gets 'peace' prize

BY BEN JOYCE

The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced October 9 that its Peace Prize recipient for 2009 is U.S. president Barack Obama "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

AS I SEE IT

The committee chose to bestow this honor upon the commander in chief of the world's most powerful imperialist armed forces—as he is

deepening a multitheater war with an expanding front in Central Asia involving more than 60,000 troops in Afghanistan and regular aerial drone attacks in Pakistan. Obama has been awarded a \$1.4 million prize for his work in "the abolition or reduction of standing armies" while his administration is leading the drive for stiffer economic sanctions against Iran and North Korea.

The reaction of many upon first hearing news about the committee's choice was that it is a joke. After all, the prize is named after Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who was one of the world's biggest armaments makers. On the face of it, the decision may seem at least contradictory. However, since the inception of the Nobel Peace Prize, nearly all of the recipients have been, with few notable exceptions, prominent representatives of or apologists for the capitalist system of class exploitation and imperialist domination.

U.S. president Woodrow Wilson was given the prize for 1919 after Washington and its allies had smashed its rivals in the first imperialist world slaughter in which millions of workers died. In 2007 Al Gore was chosen for his work in "climate change," less than a decade after leaving the administration of President William Clinton that orchestrated brutal military assaults against Iraq, Somalia, and Yugoslavia. And in 1988 the prize committee even went as far as to grant the award to the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces—a "standing army" of imperialist allies.

The selection of Barack Obama also registers the political convergence between sections of the U.S. and European ruling classes. The social layer that Obama represents—the "enlightened" meritocracy and cosmopolitan

tan elites at the tops of "nonprofits," NGOs, foundations, and other institutions committed to the maintenance of capitalist social relations—is converging politically with their counterparts in Europe, found in the leadership of various Social Democratic and "Socialist" parties that hold power in imperialist governments across the Atlantic.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, in its majority made up of representatives from this layer, has made an attempt to shore up Obama's image at a time when his administration faces increasing difficulties at home and abroad.

The "peace" that the Obama administration, his European counterparts, or any other wing of the ruling class are interested in obtaining is one based on the subjugation and deepening exploitation of toilers around the world.

As the worldwide capitalist depression deepens, the ruling classes in each of the imperialist countries are preparing for fiercer competition against each other, spreading imperialist wars, and increased social and political unrest as working people react to the deteriorating conditions being imposed on them. In preparation for this, Obama has extended many of the attacks on our rights, such as domestic spying programs, militarization of the borders, and arbitrary detention.

The only way to achieve peace is to take political and military power out of the hands of the war makers. It's only by the conquest and exercise of state power by the working class against the most violent force in history—the capitalist class—and the rebuilding of society from top to bottom along lines of social solidarity and the needs of the majority, that lasting peace is possible.

CUBA AND THE COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Jack Barnes

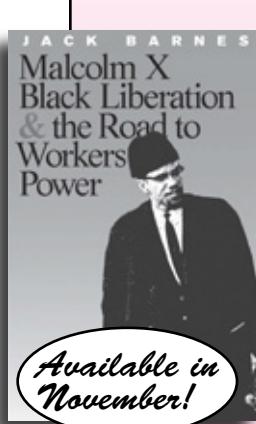
About the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. The political capacities and revolutionary potential of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly.



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How miners won fight against WWII no-strike laws

Below is an excerpt from Labor's Giant Step, one of Pathfinder's books of the month for October. The book describes the first 20 years of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), and how its rise in the mid-1930s transformed the labor movement in the United States. The piece below is from the chapter "How the Miners Won." In 1943, the United Mine Workers (UMW) waged several strikes for a pay raise and decent working conditions, challenging the government's no-strike laws and wartime wage freeze. President Franklin Roosevelt, backing the bosses, ordered government seizure of struck coal mines May 1, and ordered the miners back to work, to no avail. Copyright ©1964 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Coal miners in Bellaire, Ohio, May 1, 1943, the day President Franklin Roosevelt ordered seizure of struck coal mines. Saying "You can't mine coal with bayonets," coal miners rejected bosses' "no-strike" laws during World War II.

strike truce until midnight, May 31. This was done at the special request of Ickes. The WLB [War Labor Board] that same day denounced Lewis for "defying the lawfully established procedures of the Government." The operators simultaneously announced that the WLB had "forbidden" them to resume negotiations with the UMW.

As the date for the new strike deadline approached, there were plenty of indications that the miners' sentiments were shared by wide sectors of American workers. In Detroit, some 30,000 Chrysler and Dodge auto workers struck for four days in protest against an 11-month accumulation of grievances and demands. In Akron, Ohio, some 50,000 rubber workers struck for five days when the WLB conceded only a three-cent increase after a year's delay. These strike actions were smothered by the combined efforts of the WLB, army and navy officials, FBI, the ragging press and radio and, above all, the top union leaders of the CIO United Auto Workers and United Rubber Workers. Indeed, the UAW and URW leaders publicly upbraided their striking members.

The successful strikebreaking by the government and union officials in the auto, rubber and other strikes during the interim of the coal mines truce, further emboldened the operators to sit back

and wait for the government to smash the miners and their union. On May 25, the WLB had denied the miners all their major demands, making only two minor concessions.

The operators began to get the point when the truce deadline, May 31, passed. On the morning of June 1, some 530,000 miners refrained from entering the pits "without any special strike call being issued and with casual matter-of-factness," as George Breitman, the *Militant's* correspondent, wrote from the mining area around Pittsburgh.

Roosevelt thundered at the striking miners that they "are employees of the Government and have no right to strike." Ickes telegraphed the union that Lewis "cannot escape responsibility for the cessation of work." But Ickes conceded that "there are a few powerful operators who from the beginning had deliberately opposed any compromise which might lead to a reasonable settlement."

What was decisive, however, was the attitude of the miners, their belief in their rights, their understanding of their organized power and their strategic position in the economy. George Breitman, in a May 26 dispatch from Uniontown, Pennsylvania, to *The Militant* summarized the results of his numerous interviews with miners in the important UMW District 4:

"The question I asked was: 'Do you

think you will obtain a substantial portion of your demands?' And always the answer was an unhesitating yes. When I asked why, their answer generally went like this:

"Because we're the only ones who can mine coal and they're not going to make us do it unless they give us enough wages to do it right and feed our families on at least the same standard we had before the war. You know you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink."

Roosevelt, on June 3, threatened to call out the troops unless the miners returned to work by June 7—and, as [Saul] Alinsky noted in his biography of Lewis, the President no longer referred to "my friends, the miners." The miners merely shrugged and repeated their classic phrase: "You can't dig coal with bayonets." Roosevelt added a further threat—miners of draft age who did not respond to his order would be reclassified for military service. This made no impact either. . . .

The miners' victory opened a whole new wave of labor struggle, mounting steadily through 1943, 1944 and 1945, reaching a titanic climax in the winter of 1945–46. The employers' postwar plan to turn the war veterans against the workers and smash the unions was never able to get going.

The miners themselves were able to go on from victory to victory in the war and immediate postwar period, winning many new gains, such as health and welfare funds, retirement pensions and other conditions, which then became objectives of the CIO unions as well.

Above all, the miners demonstrated as never before the fact that nothing can produce coal—or any other form of wealth—but the labor of workers. When the miners said "you can't dig coal with bayonets," they were saying that organized labor, united and determined to defend itself and its rights, is invincible. That is why, in hailing the miners' victory, *The Militant* of November 13, 1943, said:

"The miners strikes of 1943, taking place in the midst of the Second World War, will forever remain a landmark in the history of the American class struggle."

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ART PREIS

No sooner had the miners returned to work after their first strike in early May than [Harold] Ickes, the administration's agent in charge of the seizure, announced that the miners would not negotiate with the ostensible new operator of the mines, the government, but only with the regular owners.

On May 17, the UMW Policy Committee announced an extension of the

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Supporters of democratic rights should protest the U.S. government's attempt to block parole for Puerto Rican independence fighter Carlos Alberto Torres, who has served more than 29 years in jail, making him one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. We should demand his immediate freedom.

Torres is serving a 70-year sentence and has been eligible for a parole hearing only once every 15 years.

His "crime" is fighting for independence of Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony and one of the world's last. It is in the interest of workers in the United States to end Washington's subjugation of that Caribbean island. A successful struggle for the freedom of Puerto Rico will deal powerful blows to our common exploiters and oppressors—the tiny class of billionaire families that rules the United States.

Puerto Rico's colonial domination also reinforces systematic discrimination, racist prejudice, and cop brutality against the 4.1 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States, along with Blacks and other oppressed nationalities.

Torres was charged with "seditious conspiracy" and armed robbery, among other charges. Sedi-

tious conspiracy was also the charge back in 1886 against the workers known as the Chicago Haymarket martyrs, four of whom were executed because of their role in the fight for an eight-hour day.

In 1941, 18 Minneapolis Teamster leaders and members of the Socialist Workers Party were convicted on seditious conspiracy charges and jailed for their opposition to the imperialist aims of the U.S. government in World War II.

Seditious conspiracy laws—which make it illegal to advocate certain political points of view—are also known in the labor movement as "thought-control" laws. In Torres's parole hearing the examiner insistently asked him about his view of the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States and whether his views have changed.

In the abusive treatment of Torres and other Puerto Rican political prisoners, as well as of the Cuban Five prisoners, we can see the methods that will be increasingly used against union militants in the future as our class resists the layoffs, wage cuts, and worsening job conditions imposed by the employers. That's why labor should demand today: Free Carlos Alberto Torres and all Puerto Rican political prisoners!

Reduced sentence for Antonio Guerrero

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charges, including "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to commit murder." In June 2008 a federal appeals court vacated the sentences for three of the Five—Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Fernando González—ruling the sentences were excessive because they were inconsistent with the court record. The appeals court ordered that each of the three be resentenced.

In the case of Guerrero and Labañino, the appeals court ruling noted they had been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage, yet no evidence had been introduced that they had actually gathered or transmitted any top secret information to the Cuban government.

Sentencing hearings for Labañino and González, originally scheduled for today, have been postponed until arguments can be heard over the contention of defense attorneys for the Five that the prosecution must provide them with any assessments by the government of damage to national security caused by the alleged espionage.

In addition to the reduced sentence and possibility of parole for the first time, there is also a reasonable possibility coming out of today's hearing that Guerrero will be assigned to a medium-security federal correctional institute instead of a maximum security penitentiary such as the one in Florence, Colorado, where he has been confined since 2002. As Guerrero's attorney Leonard Weinglass noted in addressing the

court today, lockdown time at the federal penitentiary in Florence has averaged 30 percent!

In handing down today's decision, the federal court rejected arguments by both the lead government lawyer, Caroline Heck Miller, and Guerrero's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, in favor of a prehearing agreement they had reached to propose to the judge reducing Guerrero's sentence to 20 years. That would have been one year and 10 months less than the federal guidelines for the trumped-up charges on which Guerrero was convicted. Instead, Lenard imposed the minimum sentence within the federal guidelines, which are advisory to judges, but not mandatory.

Lenard pressed Caroline Heck Miller—who was also the federal government's lead attorney at the time of the 2001 trial of the Five, where she had argued vigorously for a life sentence—to explain the government's reasons for proposing a penalty below the minimum statutory sentencing guidelines.

Alluding to the effectiveness of the international campaign in defense of the Five, Miller noted that the case has been surrounded by great "contentiousness and noise" and that the government was in favor of "giving something up" in order to try to "quiet the waters of contentiousness that swirl around this case worldwide."

What better reason to step up that international campaign demanding freedom for the Cuban Five!

The *Militant* will carry further coverage of the hearing for Antonio Guerrero next week.

Illinois protests demand 'jail killer cop!'

Continued from front page

from throughout the Midwest to this latest protest. Many of them spoke from the church stage to tell of cop brutality in their cities.

Berta Russell, a bus driver in Rockford, said, "When I heard what happened I was traumatized, how they went about it. . . . You got to take a stand. When are these things going to stop?"

Ella Charles, another Rockford resident, said, "The fact they did it in front of children makes it even worse. Everybody had the same story. He came out to surrender and was shot several times."

The fact that Barmore had a criminal record doesn't justify the cops' action, added Charles, echoing what many at the rally told the *Militant*. The day Barmore was shot he was wanted by police for questioning in a domestic dispute.

Speakers at the rally included Jealous; Melvin Brown, pastor of Kingdom Authority Ministries church; a representative of Amnesty International; and Nate Parker, who acted in the movie *The Great Debaters*.

Steve Bland, Detroit NAACP president, said, "This is not just a Rockford thing. . . . We need to look beyond the surface and see there is a deeper thing happening."

The NAACP is calling for the Justice Department to launch a full investigation into the killing and the "pattern and practice" of the Rockford cops.

The two white cops involved in Barmore's death, Oda Poole and Stan North, have been involved in other cases where Black men were shot. In 2003, North wounded an African American man. In 2007, Poole fatally shot another Black who had a hammer and was carrying a suicide note. The police department and grand juries found no wrongdoing in either case.

City officials and the police have actively campaigned to justify the cops' latest killing. One thousand people marched in downtown Rockford in support of the police September 19. Prominent among the marchers were members of the Winnebago County Board, city council, church figures, and retired police officers, according to the *Rockford Register Star*.

Pakistan offensive

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iban Movement of Pakistan (TTP) in South Waziristan. Taliban forces there are estimated to number between 5,000 and 10,000, including hundreds in allied Uzbek and Arab Islamist forces.

The TTP is a major coalition of Taliban groups in northwest Pakistan waging war against the Pakistani government and against U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan.

The military has said the planned assault will not include areas in South Waziristan inhabited by the Wazir tribe, reported the *Dawn* newspaper. Taliban forces there support the government's offensive and have fought to expel foreign Islamist groups. Pakistani forces appear to be using this area as one base from which to launch their assault.

The military began preparing for the ground offensive in June with a sustained campaign of aerial bombings and artillery strikes. Fighter jets also shelled areas in Bajur Agency October 12, a few days after the government's deadline passed for TTP forces of the Mohmand tribe to lay down their arms.

Those with sufficient means in South Waziristan have reportedly left the area and are demanding the government establish refugee camps. Many others with less resources remain trapped in the future battleground. Because of the closure of the main road, transit fees are reaching 800 rupees (\$10) per head, out of reach of "a large number of poor people," reported *Dawn*.

The TTP coalition has reorganized since its leader Baitullah Mehsud was killed by a U.S. drone strike August 5. As the assault approaches, Islamist forces have carried out a spate of bombings and other attacks.

Two busy marketplaces in the North West Frontier Province were hit with suicide bomb attacks October 10 and October 12, killing a total of 90 people. The TTP claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack on UN World Food Program offices in Islamabad October 5 as well as a bold assault and hostage takeover of the army's national headquarters in Rawalpindi October 10, which was recaptured the next day.

Kerry-Lugar bill

A recent aid bill passed by the U.S. Congress September 30 has drawn opposition from within the Pakistani government, particularly from the country's historically dominant military establishment. Pakistani foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi left for an unscheduled visit to Washington October 12 to express his government's concerns.

While Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari has defended the Kerry-Lugar bill, it is seen as an affront to the country's sovereignty and opposed by many in parliament. The bill triples U.S. aid to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion per year over the next five years, but places numerous conditions on military aid.

It stipulates that the Pakistani government must end all support for Islamist terrorist groups throughout the country and conduct an effective counter-insurgency war in the FATA and beyond. It makes specific mention of "dismantling terrorist bases" in the city of Quetta, which the Pakistani government has repeatedly insisted do not exist.

The bill also demands that the military not subvert "the political or judicial process of Pakistan" and insists the Pakistani government exercise effective civilian control over the "military budgets, the chain of command, the process of promotion" and "strategic guidance."

The military has directly ruled the country for more than half of its 62-year history and remains the main pillar of bourgeois rule.

Meanwhile, three U.S. drone attacks in the Waziristan agencies September 29–30 killed at least 21 people, bringing the total reported killed so far this year to more than 480.

In Pakistan there is widespread opposition to the U.S. strikes, which have resulted in hundreds of civilians deaths.

"You have to understand our sensitivities," Qureshi told Reuters October 7. "The way out that we have suggested is the use of drones, but under our ownership. Transfer technology to Pakistan and then let us use them."